

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
REMOTE ONLINE MEETING AGENDA**October 7, 2021, 8:00 PM****Approved 10-21-2021**

Present: Raina McManus, Chair; Laura Robert, Vice Chair; Allison Burson; Jay McHale; Bea Bezmalinovic.

Public Speak: No one spoke on a non-agenda item.

Action/Discussion Items

- **Discuss/Vote Fine for Tree Cutting at 196 Pond Rd.**

After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted unanimously to issue a fine and damages of \$4,520 for the illegal cutting of a public shade tree at 196 Pond Rd. The board also recommended the Director work with the property owner to select a species for a replacement tree.

- **Annual Report Review and Approval**

After a motion was made and seconded, the board unanimously approved the Annual report, noting minor formatting issues.

- **Capital Budget Review and Approval: NRC and Morses Pond**

The board reviewed the NRC and Morses Pond 5-year Capital budgets, including a FY23 capital request of \$525,000 for the department, and 150,000 for Morses Pond. The board gave preliminary approval to the plans, with the understanding that the total requests may change based on other funding sources, including the Community Preservation Committee (Lighting retrofit, active space assessment). The board discussed the need for escalated capital costs over the 5-year period.

- **Climate Emergency**

Ms. McManus noted a recent report citing the increased frequency of billion dollar disasters, and acknowledged the work of the Climate Action Committee. A recent article noted that the average number of days between billion-dollar disasters has dropped from 82 days (1980s) to 26 days in 2010 and is now 18 days.

Liaison Reports

Ms. Robert reported on the Trails Committee work including a new Trails website, Trails Favorite Walks, upcoming site visits to review proposed trail restorations, and planned guided trail walks.

Director's Report

Open Space and Recreation Plan: Mr. Schmitt updated the board on current progress on the public survey and outreach effort, including direct mailing survey links to all of the residents within the Environmental Justice census blocks. The board agreed to review the current draft of the Open Space Plan.

Morses Pond Weed Harvester: Mr. Schmitt confirmed that the bid for the new larger harvester was open and will be closing on October 21.

Permits: The Department issued a permit to the Wellesley Mothers Forum to host a Halloween themed scavenger hunt along the Morses Pond access road. A request from the group for a winter party at Perrin is also under review.

Approve Minutes

After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted 4-0 (A. Burson had left the meeting) to approve the September 2nd, 2021 minutes. The board deferred a vote on the Annual Retreat Notes (September 23, 2021)

Urgent Items Not Anticipated Prior to 48-hours of Posting

N/A

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:25PM

REMOTE MEETING PROTOCOL Residents seeking to participate in Citizen Speak or any other agenda item should register by emailing bschmitt@wellesleyma.gov prior to the meeting and a number will be assigned for speakers. All residents seeking to participate shall call into 781-489-7748 (Conference Line) and await the announcement of your assigned number to speak. Individuals wishing to participate who have not received a number shall be asked at the end of the agenda item if they would like to speak before the Board moves on to the next agenda item.

*Times are approximate and subject to change.